

CLAIMS

We Claim:

- 500*
1. A system for managing an object positioned in a management area, the system comprising:

a host computer for holding a database in which position data of an object to be managed is stored in relation to attribute data of the object used for identifying the object;

a portable terminal machine; and

data communication means for transferring a database from the
10 host computer to the portable terminal machine;

wherein the portable terminal machine displays a position of the object according to position data in the database transferred from the host computer to the portable terminal machine.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the portable terminal machine includes:

a data storing unit for storing the database transferred from the host computer;

a condition inputting unit for entering a retrieval condition; and

a searching unit for searching the database according to the retrieval condition to obtain the position data from the database when the attribute data of the object matches the retrieval condition.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the portable terminal machine includes a data synchronization unit for synchronizing data in the database stored in the data storing unit of the portable terminal machine with data in the database held in the host computer.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the host computer includes a data synchronization unit for synchronizing data in the database stored in the data storing unit of the portable terminal machine with data in the database held in the host computer.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the object is a computer.

6. A retrieval system, comprising:

a host computer including a database, which database is output by the host computer on request, in which retrieval information and position information of objects to be managed are held in relation to each other; and

a portable terminal machine for receiving and storing the database output by the host computer;

wherein the portable terminal machine includes: a searching unit for searching the retrieval information in the database according to a condition specified by a user to identify a match between the retrieval information and the condition and consequently to identify position information of a particular object; and a map display unit for displaying a position where the particular object is managed on a map according to the position information.

7. A portable position display apparatus for displaying a position of an object to be managed, comprising:

a data storing unit for storing a database that includes map data used to display a map of an area in which the object is positioned, position data used to locate the object on the map, and attribute data used to identify the object, wherein the position data is stored in relation to the attribute data;

a condition input unit for enabling a user to enter a retrieval condition;

10 a searching unit for searching the database stored in the data storing unit according to the retrieval condition to identify a match between the attribute data and the retrieval condition and consequently to identify position data of the object; and

15 a map display unit for displaying a position of the object on the map according to the map data and the position data in the database when a match is identified by the searching unit.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, further including a data receiving unit for receiving the database.

9. The apparatus of claim 7, further including a management information display unit for displaying management information of the object according to the attribute data in the database when the searching unit identifies the match.

10. Apparatus for managing data of an object to be managed; comprising:

a database storing unit for storing a database that includes map data used to display a map of an area in which an object to be managed is positioned, position data of a display mark that denotes the position of the object on the map, and attribute data used to identify the object; and

a database outputting unit for outputting the database to a portable terminal machine in response to a request from the portable terminal machine.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, further including:

a map display unit for displaying the map according to the map data in the database;

a mark drawing unit for enabling a user to draw a display mark on the map displayed by the map display unit;

a coordinate obtaining unit for obtaining coordinates of the display mark drawn by the mark drawing unit; and

a data storing unit for storing the coordinate data in the database as the position data of the display mark.

10 12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the map display unit, when the display mark is drawn by the mark drawing unit, displays a reference line created on the map in response to a fixed item in the area in which the object to be managed is positioned.

13. A position display method, comprising the steps of:

storing a database that includes map data used to display an area in which a plurality of objects to be managed are placed as a map, position data used to display a position of each of the plurality of objects in the area on the map, and attribute data used to identify each object in a locally unique way;

prompting a user to specify a specific object among the plurality of objects;

reading the map data and the position data of the specific object from the database; and

displaying the position of the specific object in the area on the map according to the map data and the position data read from the database.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the database is received from a host computer and stored in the database storing step.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the database is updated by the host computer.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the host computer updates the database at predetermined times.

17. A computer readable storage medium that stores a program to be executed by a computer, the program enabling the computer to execute:

a first process for displaying a map based on map data and on

5 position data of an object that is positioned and managed in a specific area, wherein the map data and the position data are stored in a database;

a second process for drawing a display mark of the object to be managed according to an input from a user on the map;

10 a third process for obtaining coordinate data of the drawn display mark on the map; and

a fourth process for storing the coordinate data in the database in relation to entered data of the object.

18. The computer readable storage medium of claim 17, wherein the program further enables the computer to execute a process for presenting a list of objects to be managed, read from the database, so as to prompt the user to specify a particular object
5 to be managed and to be stored in relation to the coordinate data in the fourth process.

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